

COASTAL PROGRAM POLICIES

The laws and policies are discussed in detail in the *New Hampshire Coastal Program Final Environmental Impact Statement*, July, 1988. There was a text change approved by NOAA in September 2003 to Policy #13. The policies themselves are as follows:

PROTECTION OF COASTAL RESOURCES

1. Protect and preserve and, where appropriate, restore the water and related land resources of the coastal and estuarine environments. The resources of primary concern are coastal and estuarine waters, tidal and freshwater wetlands, beaches, sand dunes, and rocky shores.
2. Manage, conserve and, where appropriate, undertake measures to maintain, restore, and enhance the fish and wildlife resources of the state.
3. Regulate the mining of sand and gravel resources in offshore and onshore locations so as to ensure protection of submerged lands, and marine and estuarine life. Ensure adherence to minimum standards for restoring natural resources impacted from onshore sand and gravel operations.
4. Undertake oil spill prevention measures, safe oil handling procedures and, when necessary, expedite the cleanup of oil spillage that will contaminate public waters. Institute legal action to collect damages from liable parties in accordance with state law.
5. Encourage investigations of the distribution, habitat needs, and limiting factors of rare and endangered animal species and undertake conservation programs to ensure their continued perpetuation.
6. Identify, designate, and preserve unique and rare plant and animal species and geologic formations which constitute the natural heritage of the state. Encourage measures, including acquisition strategies, to ensure their protection.

RECREATION AND PUBLIC ACCESS

7. Provide a wide range of outdoor recreational opportunities including public access in the seacoast through the maintenance and improvement of the existing public facilities and the acquisition and development of new recreational areas and public access.

MANAGING COASTAL DEVELOPMENT

8. Preserve the rural character and scenic beauty of the Great Bay estuary by limiting public investment in infrastructure within the coastal zone in order to limit development to a mixture of low and moderate density.
9. Reduce the risk of flood loss, to minimize the impact of floods on human safety, health and welfare, and to preserve the natural and beneficial value of floodplains, through the implementation of the National Flood Insurance Program and applicable state laws and regulations, and local building codes and zoning ordinances.
10. Maintain the air resources in the coastal area by ensuring that the ambient air pollution level, established by the New Hampshire State Implementation Plan pursuant to the Clean Air Act, as amended, is not exceeded.
11. Protect and preserve the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of coastal water resources, both surface and groundwater.
12. Ensure that the siting of any proposed energy facility in the coast will consider the national interest and will not unduly interfere with the orderly development of the region and will not have an unreasonable adverse impact on aesthetics, historic sites, coastal and estuarine waters, air and water quality, the natural environment and the public health and safety.

COASTAL DEPENDENT USES

13. Allow only water dependent uses and structures on state properties in Portsmouth-Little Harbor, Rye Harbor, and Hampton-Seabrook Harbor, at state port and fish pier facilities and state beaches (except those uses or structures which directly support the public recreation purpose). For new development, allow only water dependent uses and structures over waters and wetlands of the state. Allow repair of existing over-water structures within guidelines. Encourage the siting of water dependent uses adjacent to public waters.
14. Preserve and protect coastal and tidal waters and fish and wildlife resources from adverse effects of dredging and dredge disposal, while ensuring the availability of navigable waters to coastal-dependent uses. Encourage beach renourishment and wildlife habitat restoration as a means of dredge disposal whenever compatible.

PRESERVATION OF HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

15. Support the preservation, management, and interpretation of historic and culturally significant structures, sites and districts along the Atlantic coast and in the Great Bay area.

MARINE AND ESTUARINE RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

16. Promote and support marine and estuarine research and education that will directly benefit coastal resource management.